



NOAA FY 2001 Budget Request Fact Sheet

LANDS LEGACY INITIATIVE



Coastal Impact Assistance Fund - \$100 Million Increase

NOAA requests an increase of \$100 million to better protect and sustainably use ocean and coastal resources by enabling states to mitigate the effects of existing offshore gas and oil activities. The request will establish the Coastal Impact Assistance Fund to assist coastal states with existing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leases within 200 miles. Funds will be available to these states to address the most pressing environmental issues facing their coasts. NOAA's Coastal Impact Assistance Fund is a key component of the FY 2001 Lands Legacy Initiative, and complements other Lands Legacy investments. Anticipated eligible states include: Alaska, Alabama, California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

The Need for Coastal Impact Assistance

The offshore areas contains approximately 14 percent of the United States' domestic oil reserves and 24 percent of the natural gas reserves. The leasing and development of these resources place new demands on coastal states and communities for direct infrastructure support including siting production facilities, pipelines, and ports. The growth and development spurred by OCS development is also associated with other impacts, such as potential damage to marine life and habitat from oil spills and heavy industrial development along the waterfront.

Responding to the Problem

The Coastal Impact Assessment Fund will provide grants to coastal states with existing oil and gas leases to implement a variety of activities that increase the protection and sustainable management of coastal resources. All activities will be consistent with the objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and the state coastal management plans developed pursuant to the CZMA. States and local governments will be able to use these funds for a variety of environmentally friendly projects, including planning activities to address the direct and indirect impacts of OCS development and leasing. These include:

- protecting and restoring coastal habitats;
- coastal community revitalization projects providing environmental benefits
- improving safety and port infrastructure
- addressing polluted runoff.

This funding will enable these states to develop and implement better methods and technology to minimize the risks posed to coastal and ocean ecosystems by offshore oil and gas production. This addresses one of the strategic goals from the 1995 National Energy Policy Plan - Sustainable Energy Strategy, which

NOAA Budget : Lands Legacy (New Funding Request)

	FY 2001 Change \$ millions
National Ocean Service	
Ocean Resource Conservation and Assessment (Coral Reef Conservation)	\$4.0
Ocean and Coastal Management (Coastal Zone Management Act Program)	\$94.8
(Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control)	\$2.0
(National Estuarine Research Reserve System)	\$6.0
(National Marine Sanctuaries)	\$10.0
National Marine Fisheries Service	
Conservation and Management Operations (Coral Reef Protection)	\$5.0
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction Account	
(National Estuarine Research Reserve System)	\$2.0
Other Accounts	
(Coastal Impact Assistance Fund)	\$100.0
(Pacific Salmon Fund)	\$42.0
Lands Legacy Total New Funding	\$265.8

calls for reducing the adverse environmental impacts connected with energy production, delivery, and use, as well as the recommendations found in the report "Turning to the Sea: America's Ocean Future."

The funds will be made available through a grant program to states that are most affected by OCS development, i.e., those states that are directly adjacent to existing OCS areas with existing oil and gas production leases. The funds will be allocated by formula based on coastal population, shoreline mileage, distance from active OCS lease tracts (active as of January 2000), and not including lease tracts in areas subject to a moratorium on January 1, 1999, unless lease was already issued.

Why NOAA?

Through the Coastal Zone Management Act, NOAA has a long-standing partnership with coastal states, including those states affected by OCS oil and gas development activities. This partnership is a proven mechanism to address the problems that result from multiple uses of the coastal zone and its resources. NOAA contributes to this partnership by using its technical and scientific expertise to support state and local efforts.

For Further Information Contact:
Office of Legislative Affairs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(202) 482-4981